



FINAL - Meeting Minutes – August 2, 2018
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Colwyck Center, 12 Landers Lane, New Castle

DECC Voting Member Attendance:

Madeleine Bayard, Rodel Foundation of Delaware; Gabriela Kejner, Department of Health and Social Services; Kate Rudolph, Christiana Care Health System; Julie Johnson, Tender Loving Kare Child Care & Learning Centers; Dr. Kimberly Krzanowski, Office of Early Learning; Leslie Newman, Children & Families First; Carrette Monsanto, Sunshine Home Childcare; Kelli Thompson, Nemours; Dr. Michelle Shaivitz, De Association for Education of Young Children (DEAEYC)

Ex-Officio Council Member Attendance: Mary Moor, Division of Public Health and Behavioral Health Services; Betty Gail Timm, Office of Child Care Licensing; Debbie Taylor, Rowan University

Additional Attendees: Rosanne Griff-Cabelli, Department of Health and Social Services; Diane Frentzel, Delaware Readiness Teams; Michelle Loatman, DEAEYC; Bill Doolittle, Advocate; Barbara Johnson, Delaware Readiness Teams; Kathy Kelly, Department of Education; Jackie Benz, Division of Social Services DHSS; Lucinda Ross, St. Michaels; Myra Holmes, DEAEYC; Jeannette Short, Office of Early Learning; John Fisher-Klein, Office of Early Learning; Elizabeth Smith, DEAEYC; Andrea Prettyman, Children & Families First; Kristy Sheffler, DE Stars; Eunice Yoo, DEAEYC; Lisa Miller, DEAEYC; Cathy Hagan-Smith, DTCC-Wilmington; Dawn Alexander, Colonial School District; Katrina Daniels, Colonial School District; Jane Bowen, Newark Day Nursery; Jacqueline Jenkins, Campaign for Grade Level Reading; Tammy Wales, Colonial School District; Daphne Evans, Christina Cultural Arts Center; Candice Brown, Children & Families First; Gwen Angalet, GBA Consulting; Christy Gleason, Advocate; Jessica Heesh-Butler, Division of Public Health; Annalisa Ekblach, Autism DE; Karen Hartz, Latin American Community Center; Aisha Ferrell, Office of Early Learning; Abbie Janney, Division of Behavioral Health; Laura Saperstrein, Division of Public Health; Kristina Woznicki, YMCA; Jamie Walko, Office of Early Learning Contractor; Michelle Spencer, DEAEYC; Angela Herbstritt, DTCC; Andria Keating, Babes on the Square; Patricia Scurggs, Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware; Whitney Williams, Parents as Teachers; Donna Snyder-White, Delaware 211

1. Welcome/Call to Order, Approval of Minutes

Madeleine Bayard welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The May 9, 2018 and June 12, 2018 Delaware Early Childhood Council (DECC) meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Kelli Thompson and Julie Johnson, and passed with no changes.

A special tribute was given to Rosanne Griff-Cabelli for her many years of service to the Delaware Early Childhood Council, which acknowledged her work on behalf of young children across state agencies.

Dr. Kim Krzanowski gave a brief update on the state's early learning budget, specifically noting that an additional \$3.8 million will be available for Delaware Stars. She thanked our legislators for acknowledging this need and approving early learning funding. This funding will allow new Delaware Star level programs coming in and those moving up in Delaware Stars to continue to grow and receive the appropriate funding for their star level.

Another thank you was said for the base rate for Purchase of Care, which will be raised to 65% of the 2015 rates April 1, 2019 or sooner. The group discussed that this rate is still not nearly covering the cost of care, additional advocacy is needed to show the importance of early learning. He encouraged everyone to continue advocacy efforts.

Social Service Resources for Providers and Families

Dr. Michelle Shaivitz gave a presentation on **Kellogg Family Resource Advocates**, which supports social services in child care centers to both workers and the families they serve. She noted that a child is only ready to learning if they are hungry or homeless, and this helps with that need for stability. The program started in January 2017 and has served 356 people in 14 centers, and the need for it continues to grow. It is a multi-generational project, with a value-approach to getting resources to families. Families can talk to an advocate at their center. This is also a workforce development issue, as they try to keep workers in centers. This works toward their goal of having consistent, high quality workforce for childcare.

Myra Holmes, of the Kellogg project, noted they are partnering with Early Learning Wilmington Resource Center located in the Warner School. The attached family service advocate flyer is available for those who want more information. It includes contact information for DEAEYC.

Next, Donna Snyder-White gave a presentation on **Delaware 211**, Delaware's Helpline. Her presentation focused on Help Me Grow, which guides families in need of birth-8 resources in the community. It helps guide people to early learning programs and services, especially pediatrician screenings, and Ages and Stages screenings. A repository is available to ensure access and that programs are available for everyone. A flyer is attached with more information, or check out <http://dethrives.com/help-me-grow> or dial 211.

Panel Discussion: Expulsion/Behavioral Health Recommended Supports for Families/Providers

Madeleine Bayard provided background that the Council approved a recommended expulsion best practice policy statement (see attached).

Jackie Bensel of DHSS provided an update on the Expulsion/Suspension Policy and Best Practices Statement, focusing on the high rates of pre-k expulsions, including the need to stop biases that are happening with expulsion and methods of discipline. The expulsion policy was presented to the IRMC and the statement has been approved and will be put in the CCDF Plan. We will work with our federal and state agencies to determine how we will implement it and develop strategies as this is mandated. We still need to create a method for collecting data on expulsion/discipline. Data and policy committee has some initial recommendations.

The following panel discussed the needs for support of expulsion/behavioral health and challenging behaviors for families and early learning providers.

Lucinda Ross of St. Michaels School and Nursery gave a provider's perspective on supporting children and families with challenging behaviors. St Michael's enrolls 150 children, ages birth to five. They have worked with Kellogg Family Resources, Child Development Center, and Mental Health Consultants and have only had to have a few children leave the center. The behaviors that were displayed by these children, appeared to be trauma-based. She noted that in her case it became a safety issue, where a line has to be drawn. The first time parents are called, given notification of what happens if behavior continues, and is referred to services. The second time, the child must stay home for a day, but communication continues with families and resources/services are offered. The third time, the child can only come back with a sit down meeting with the family. Further discussion occurred on the professional development of the center staff, including how to have staff address these difficult behaviors.

Mary Moor leads the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants and serves as a consultant. She noted they have 14 consultants statewide that link families to early mental health services, such as providing professional development and prevention/early intervention focus for children with challenging behaviors. This service is primarily for early care and education programs (specifically teachers in the classroom) to allow them to develop strategies for dealing with behaviors. They have had a 98% success rate in preventing expulsion in cases they have handled.

Abbie Janney of the Division of Behavioral Health spoke about Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). She noted they have trained over 100 clinicians throughout various communities and different agencies. Some of these are home based, clinics, centers, etc. This is an evidence-based, parent and child in skill development model. Her office links parents with PCIT providers who have training in child mental health. Many times these services are with outside community resources.

Jessica Heesh-Butler of the Division of Public Health's Child Development Watch (CDW) program, which is a birth-3 early intervention program. She noted that anyone can refer a child to CDW, not just parents, although the parent has to agree to the referral. Their referrals are based on an initial developmental concern, which results in a complete performance assessment, with referral to occupational therapy, physical therapy, physical motor skills and other providers and community resources (such as 211 Help Me Grow, etc.). Attached is the referral form from Child Development Watch.

Dr. Krzanowski noted that the Office of Early Learning has Jeannette Short and Fiona Vivar as Child Development Watch staff that work with districts on these issues. She noted a 619 coordinator will be hired in the next 4-8 weeks. Jeannette noted that younger kids get referral to child care centers, older kids get referred to school district.

Dawn Alexander spoke about the need for developmental screenings to be done by DHSS for Part C and DOE for Part B, as these are the lead agencies. They have a federal responsibility to be out in the community doing screenings, and providing access to Ages and Stages

Questionnaire screening. It was further noted that all early learning advocates/agencies need to work with children who are high risk to get them the help they need. Collectively this should be a priority of our early learning community and service providers. It was further noted that we need to be better at collecting data on this as we really have no idea how many children need services.

Madeleine noted that there was a policy that was reviewed and approved, and that we will work on getting better data and suggestions in order to support mental health staff and families. The group heard from Christy Gleason who spoke as a parent regarding her son's struggles with expulsion. She is an advocate for the mental health consultant process. She noted the time factor involved with identify and assisting young people is to be considered. It takes a couple months to move from first offense to identified services. How do we decrease that timeframe, and how do we help teachers to deal with this challenge? It was noted that individual programs have different tolerance levels and different resources.

Linda Zankowsky of the Early Learning Center at UD spoke about the importance of having teachers understand the development stages and for them to be trained to know when something is a problem. We want teachers to be proactive not reactive, and therefore there is a need to educate families on the policy. Additionally, parents should report expulsions or if there child is at risk for being expelled.

Another suggestion was to start collecting data around disability status. Madeleine suggested we do follow up on data collection/screenings/and supporting families/training teachers and providing more services using quality funds.

As the meeting transitioned, Colonial School District was thanked for hosting today's meeting, and new council members, Gabriela Kejner and Kate Rudolph were introduced.

CCDF Update and Quality Funds Spending Review

Jackie Benseal with DHSS/Purchase of Care noted that the federal deadline to submit the state's CCDF plan has been extended to August 25. Madeleine suggested that maybe at next month's meeting DHSS can brief the Council on which of the Council's suggestions made it into their ultimate plan and which ones did not. It was also suggested that the federal restrictions on subsidy spending may be covered at future meeting.

With regards to Quality Funds Spending Review, Madeleine noted that DECC has provided input on this and that an increasing percentage of future money should go to improving quality. She noted the DECC would be interested in reviewing how the money will be spent and what outcomes/deliverables we might expect.

Jackie indicated that Delaware did receive an addition \$5 million discretionary funding, and DHSS will use it to fund the mandates they have to comply with by September 30. These include background checks, consumer website, expulsion policy, mandated health/safety trainings, and disaster planning.

Jackie noted there were three areas of Quality Spending they were looking at:

- Early Head Start Childcare Partnership - this is where children are awarded slots for an early learning opportunity. The spot is guaranteed for two years or up to age 3. Adjustments are to be made every month to assure parents don't pay a fee. As a part of this, they get medical, dental and nutrition services.
- Funding for Mental Health Consultants, as well as two positions funded by Office of Child Care Licensing
- Contracts – Jackie went over the list of contracts on the handout (see attached).

Madeleine noted that we are meeting 7% requirement, but will be going up to 9%, so we will work to find ways to raise it and what we should be spending on. A Council member asked about the fifth contract which is specific to the City of Wilmington. There was some concern that state resources would be used for a Wilmington-only resource center.

With an increase in funds over the next few years, it was noted that there would be continued discussion on what is proposed and what was funded.

Kindergarten Registration

Caitlin Gleason and Diane Frentzel gave a presentation on Kindergarten Registration in Delaware and the Readiness Teams efforts. Presentation is attached, which highlighted school choice and kindergarten registration. 2017 baseline data on district/charter processes and on-time registration was discussed, as well as family and community survey results. Diane noted that the Readiness Teams are working on a Registration and Reading Campaign, which includes a host of marketing tools such as informational folders, DE Readiness Team website, developmental screening info, resources for families, etc. Anyone is welcome to email Diane at dcfrentzel@gmail.com for packets or information. She also noted they have been working on Kindergarten Academies, which is for families whose children will be entering kindergarten. There is a parent education piece and children have activities they can do.

Updates for Office of Early Learning

Dr. Kim Krzanowski gave a staffing update. She introduced Aisha Ferrell, the new Education Specialist for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grants. She noted the Head Start Collaboration Director position is posted until 8/3/18 with interviews following and the position being filled in September. She noted that the Section 619 Part B Coordinator has been challenging to fill, but she is actively searching for the right person. Jamie Walko has been helping us out in Cindy's absence. She also noted that an Early Learning Transitions staff person, who will assist with ECAP, Kindergarten, DE-ELS, will be posted soon.

She provided an overview of the Community Conversations Meetings that were held in the spring noting that OCCL, OEL, Stars and POC held public feedback sections. She noted that there were over 100 attendees, consisting of 48.5% were providers, 16% state agency contractors, 7% of Nonprofit partners and 5% community partners. Support was expressed for each state entity, but issues noted were ability to hire and retain qualified staff, losing students to district/K-12 programs, licensing fingerprint and background checks and licensing medication administration and "quality assured" trainings and inclusion. She noted these meetings will be an annual occurrence. A one page report will be coming out soon which will be posted on our

website and sent to attendees. Also, there will be a feedback survey for participants regarding who should serve on next year's panel.

John Fisher-Klein updated the group on the QRIS Redesign Update noting that listening sessions and survey were conducted, and the Redesign team is currently analyzing data. They are researching what other states are doing to get best practices and determine what model we want to use. A Redesign team meeting will be held in September and they will be making some recommendations for structural changes to the system. They will be looking at standards and how those standards impact childhood outcomes. Future updates will be about the recommendations and receiving feedback from the DECC.

Tina Shockley, in Carmen Gallagher's absence, provided an update on the Delaware First Online Application that is coming in September. She noted this will require all Delaware First participants to have an IMS account to access the application, and will require documents to be uploaded when applying for qualifications.

Committee Reports

It was noted that to save time subcommittee meeting minutes will be sent with the meeting reminder. The Healthy Young Children and Families will be meeting in September (agenda attached).

Community Updates

Jackie Jenkins provides an update on the Campaign for Grade Level Reading noting. She noted that low income families are not meeting this important reading milestone, and the program is built upon indicators, that were research based, of what is preventing kids from succeeding in reading. She noted that 44 states are participating in this milestone, with Delaware joining in fall of 2017.

For Delaware this is an opportunity to reassess and see if we are accomplishing what we need to. A part of the campaign is to get kids participating in reading literacy programs, like summer reading programs, after school programs, etc.

She also noted that the School Readiness Team and School Attendance Team are going to be meeting soon to continue their work. Specifically they have identified performance indicators and baseline data, and next we will be moving from strategy to implementation.

Dawn Alexander spoke about the ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire – developmental screening). She noted that they partner with 211 Help Me Grow and Campaign for Grade Level Reading, as well as partner with community agencies, head starts, and childcare programs in the Colonial School District. They offer a portal, and such developmental screenings are offered to all families in Colonial School District. They reach out to partners via kindergarten registration, through referrals, etc. They are encouraging all school districts to make the move to this, as it helps with data collection.

Dawn also noted that typical early education/special education budget is \$100,000 for 619 Programs, with \$36,000 of that being set aside for developmental screenings. In moving to ASQ,

putting it online, they have been able to save \$17,000/yr on our budget. This cost savings has allowed them to provide additional services to young children. They are eager to get other school districts involved in this.

Linda Zankowsky announced that she has been utilizing a Developmental Environmental Rating Scale (DERS) for use in programs. Information about this will be available at the University of Delaware on September 28. It is important because it helps teachers and star-level programs grow. The outcomes for children is the focus of the program. See flyer/email attachment.

Bill Doolittle noted that an application for state family engagement center has been made. This is known as the birth to employment grant. PIC is lead agency, DOE and PTA are partners. Also Bill noted that in an effort to do some budget smoothing to avoid drought/feast budget cycles, the General Assembly is considering a separate budget, i.e., a one-time funding for stand-alone initiatives. These have typically been part of other budgets and been cut. It is important to keep in mind that funding doesn't always have to come out of appropriation money.

Leslie Newman noted that there is a Children & Families First partnership with the University of Delaware that involves a three part training, including developments around brainscience, building resilience and self-care. She also noted that the PCIT is engaging families with the hopes of having families participate in a family skilled based program rather than a mental health intervention.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.